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MARCH 2024

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NEW OWNERS AT PANORAMA MARINE

**CINDY AND PHIL WATSON JR
ARE WORKING TO ENSURE A
SMOOTH TRANSITION**

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**BEST OF GUTHRIE
COUNTY POLL
LAUNCHED**

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**LAKE PANORAMA
COUPLE REFLECTS ON
75 YEARS OF MARRIAGE**

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**CHICKEN AND
VEGETABLE KABOBS ARE
AN EASY SUMMER MEAL**

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ON THE COVER: Cindy and Phil Watson show a Mastercraft boat now on display in the Panorama Marine sales and service building. While indoor display space in the current building is limited, the new sales and service building under construction along Highway 4 will have room to display 30 boats. Photo by Susan Thompson

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SPRING FEVER

Are you getting the summer itch? By the looks of what I am seeing around Lake Panorama right now, I am guessing you are. The unusually warm weather has most all of us thinking of swimsuits and flip flops as we debate whether or not to put the winter wear away for the season.

Meanwhile, boat lifts are starting to be installed now, which is always a sure sign of spring. Seeing the barges on the water puts a smile on my face.

Boats are being pulled out of storage and are getting polished up and ready to hit the water. Get out the wax.

Lawnmowers are being serviced so we can start cutting grass. All we need is for the grass to grow, which it will soon enough.

Outdoor furniture is being cleaned up and placed back on the decks and patios. Or, if you left them out in the recent wind, you may need to retrieve them from your neighbor's lawn.

Yes, spring is close, and that means one thing — summer is getting closer, too.

In the meantime, you might want to keep a sweat-er handy.

OUR COVER STORY

Speaking of boats, we are pleased to bring you a story about the new owners of Panorama Marine, Phil and Cindy Watson. Be sure to read the story and learn about what they have in store. We should also thank Lyn Coulter for his years of dedication to the lake community and all he and his staff did to ensure we had the services we needed and wanted.

75 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

If you read our February issues of Panora Times and Guthrie Center Times, you learned about local couples who have been married for 50 years or more. They were heartwarm-ing stories of love and understanding and pa-



Shane Goodman
.....

ti-ence. In this issue of Lake Panorama Times, we share the story of lake residents Bob and Betty White, who have been married for 75 years. They offer advice for the rest of us who hope to make it to the 75-year mark.

SOME IRISH HUMOR

With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, I feel the need to share some Irish humor. And since I am Irish, I might be able to get away with these jokes a bit more than most. Just exchange the word "Irishman" with "Shane."

Here we go. An Irishman checks into a hotel for the first time in his life and goes up to his room. Five minutes later, he calls to the front desk and says, "You have given me a room with no exit. How do I leave?" The desk clerk says, "Sir, that's absurd. Have you looked for the door?" The Irishman replies, "Well, there's one door that leads to the bathroom. There's a second door that goes into the closet. And there's a door I haven't tried, but it has a 'do

not disturb' sign on it."

Here's another one. A bartender says to his Irish customer, "Your glass is empty. Would you like another one?" Looking puzzled, the Irishman says, "Why would I be needing two empty glasses?"

And finally, a woman asks an Irishman, "If you were stranded on a desert island, who would you like most to be with you?" The Irishman says, "My uncle Mick." The woman replies, "What's so special about him?" The Irishman says, "He's got a boat."

Have a great March, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
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PANORAMA MARINE PREPS FOR 2024 SEASON AT LAKE PANORAMA

Phil and Cindy Watson are working to ensure a smooth transition.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

The Lake Panorama Association (LPA) began operating a small marina in 1970. Over the next few years, it was leased to four different operators, but none lasted. That changed in the summer of 1982 when Lyn Coulter and his brother, John, leased the gas dock from the LPA for \$1. The agreement called for the pair to stock the dock with some basic marine accessories and keep consistent business hours.

Coulter Panorama Marine was founded in 1983 with the \$7,000 profit from that first year running the gas dock.

"When it came time to pay the \$10,500 rent in December 1983, we didn't have the funds to do it," Lyn Coulter said in a 2022 interview. "The LPA board decided to forgive the rent that year but made it clear they would never forgive it again. Luckily,

the business took off in 1984, and we never missed, or ever were late, on a lease payment."

For the next 40 years, the LPA leased its marina facilities to Coulter Panorama Marine.

"Lyn Coulter and the entire Coulter team have been a critical part of Lake Panorama's success," says John Rutledge, LPA general manager. "In many ways, Lake Panorama and Coulter Panorama Marine grew up together. I am grateful for the trusted relationship that existed between the Coulter team and our LPA staff."

The 2024 season brings new marine owners and a new lease. Phil Watson Jr. and his wife, Cindy, purchased Panorama Marine from Lyn Coulter last fall. On Sept. 26, the LPA board of directors approved a 2024-2028 lease between LPA and Watson for operation of the LPA-owned marina.

"I think it's essential for the LPA membership to know Lyn Coulter and Phil Watson worked hard to ensure a smooth transition for the LPA membership and the marina staff," Rutledge says. "Transitions like this are complex and have the potential to be a bumpy ride. Thanks to Lyn and Phil for all their work to provide a seamless transition. LPA is very grateful."

Phil Watson Jr. has a lifelong connection with Lake Panorama. His parents, Phil and Judy Watson, purchased a house at Lake Panorama in 1972, the year he was born. The couple still owns that home in Hughes Cove. While the family's fulltime home is in Indianola, Watson has many fond memories of his time growing up on the water. Some summers, he even worked at the marina gas dock.

Cindy Watson grew up in Early in northwest Iowa and is a trained dental hygienist. In 2006, Phil was working at a boat show when one of the sales reps asked if he'd be interested in going on a blind date with Cindy. Two years later, he proposed to her on Lake Panorama in his parents' 1985 Century Resorter boat. They soon married and now live in Polk City. They have three daughters, ages 14, 12 and 9, who attend North Polk Community Schools.

After high school graduation in Indianola, Phil Watson attended Southwest Missouri State in Springfield, Missouri. Springfield is also the location of the first Bass Pro Shop and where Watson got his start sell-



Last March, Phil and Cindy Watson purchased 10 acres north of Lakeside Village along Highway 4, where construction is underway on a sales and service building and two storage buildings. They purchased Panorama Marine from Lyn Coulter last fall. Until the new buildings are done, the Watsons have a month-to-month lease with the LPA for the existing sales and service building at the marina.

ing boats to customers. Next came a boat sales job in Kansas City.

In 1999, Watson took a sales job with Water's Edge Marine, which was located in Johnston. He was the company's sales manager for two years before purchasing the business and moving it to Polk City in 2011. Cindy Watson joined the business in 2017, helping with bookkeeping, benefits and other human resources duties. She now does the same at Panorama Marine.

In December 2022, the Watsons sold Water's Edge to Hicklin Power Sports.

"My dream has always been to have a boat shop at Lake Panorama," Phil says. "Last March, I started looking for property here and purchased 10 acres north of Lakeside Village along Highway 4."

Construction began on the site last fall with three buildings partially completed before work was halted. Because of some technical and structural issues, those buildings were removed in late February,

and reconstruction is underway.

The main L-shaped building will be 17,000 square feet and include both sales and service. The climate-controlled showroom will be large enough to have about 30 boats on display. A dock system will allow customers to browse among the boats without climbing up and down. There will be six service bays. Two boat storage buildings will be built this year, with additional storage buildings possible in the future.

Once the new buildings are complete, a service road will be built on Watson's property that will lead to the marina. This will make it possible to move boats between the lake and the service and storage buildings without using Highway 4.

Watson thinks the 2024 boating season will be winding down before Panorama Marine can move into the new buildings. In the meantime, the Watsons have a month-to-month lease with the LPA for the current sales and service building near



Panorama Marine offers a variety of boating accessories including skis, wake boards, tow ropes, inflatables and life jackets, with more products expected as the business becomes fully stocked.



All employees who worked for Lyn Coulter had the opportunity to join Watson's organization. Everyone stayed, plus two people have been added to the team. Shown left to right, Scott Kemble, sales manager; Brian Dorsett, service manager; Mike Mobley, Mike "Spud" Webb and Justin Boettcher, service techs. New hires are Ethan Hawkins, who will attend training to work on Mercury motors, and Nate Sheesley, service writer/parts manager.

the gas dock.

No decisions have been made on the future of the existing sales and service building.

"LPA will review that with the Watsons once they have moved to their new location," says Rutledge. "Any changes to the building will include plans to ensure boaters are provided a modern, indoor bathroom for their use while visiting the gas dock or slips."

Boat lines carried by Coulter's will continue to be carried by Watson and include Mastercraft, Four Winns, Godfrey pontoons and Kawasaki jet skis. A new line of pontoons, Barletta, will be added. Honda and Volvo motors will continue to be serviced, plus Mercury motors will be added to the service list.

Panorama Marine will continue to offer VW brand docks and Shore Station lifts.

"We'll also offer all the same sorts of boating accessories Lake Panorama customers are used to, plus we'll bring in new options as we get fully stocked," Watson says.

All employees who worked for Lyn Coulter had the opportunity to join Watson's organization.

"Everyone stayed, which is great and will help this be a seamless transition," Watson says. "These guys have years of hands-on knowledge and experience here at Lake Panorama."

Scott Kemble is the Panorama Marine sales manager. Brian Dorsett is the service manager. Mike Webb, Mike Mobley and Justin Boettcher continue as service techs. One new hire, Ethan Hawkins, will attend training to work on Mercury motors.

Nate Sheesley, who worked for the Watsons as service manager at Water's Edge, has joined Panorama Marine as the service writer/parts manager. His wife's parents, Dave and Ruth McNamara, have owned a home on Christmas Tree Point since the 1990s.

The sales and service building now is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and closed Sunday.

The Panorama Marine gas dock will be staffed Memorial Day to Labor Day with the same hours as past years. Watson plans to add a "pay at the pump" option that will make it more convenient for boaters to get gas during off hours or early spring and late fall.

Watson says those who had Coulter's service and stored their boats last fall can count on Panorama Marine to get their boats out of storage and connect with their owners just as the case has been for many years. The same is true for customers who routinely have the marina staff remove lift canopies in the fall and reinstall those in the spring.

"We think communication is key," Wat-

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Kawasaki continues as the brand of jet skis available at Panorama Marine.

son says. "We've increased the number of phone lines coming into the main office and have voice mail so, if someone calls after hours, they can leave a message and we'll call them back."

The phone number for Panorama Marine remains the same — 641-755-2920. A new website includes photos and informa-

tion on all new and pre-owned boats, pontoons and personal watercraft. The website is panoramamarine.com.

"I've been in the marine business for 27 years," Watson says. "We're excited to be here, and we look forward to taking care of our customers. This is going to be a lot of fun." ■

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SAVE THE DATE: 2024 BEACH BALL JUNE 21

Friends of Lake Panorama will host its seventh annual fundraiser.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

2024 marks the 10th anniversary of the founding of Friends of Lake Panorama, a nonprofit charity dedicated to improving recreational amenities at Lake Panorama. To celebrate this anniversary, while raising money for additional projects, Friends will host its seventh Beach Ball fundraiser Friday, June 21, at Lake Panorama National.

Event registration will begin in mid-April. Funds will be raised with both live and silent auctions, plus other activities throughout the evening. Items for the auctions are being accepted now. Anyone interested in donating auction items for the 2024 Beach Ball is asked to email staff@friendsoflakepanorama.org.

The Friends of Lake Panorama seven-member volunteer board will meet April 8 to finalize plans for the 2024 Beach Ball. They also will discuss how profits from the event will be used. Projects chosen by the Friends board to promote at the Beach Ball will receive a percentage of pooled funds raised, plus all direct donations designated to a specific project.

The 2023 Beach Ball had a profit of \$25,000. That money has been used over the last year, in conjunction with private donations, to create low-impact recreational amenities on Lake Panorama's south shore.

The Lake Panorama trails system, with a

cross country trail for the Panorama Community Schools incorporated, is complete, and the nine-hole Lake Panorama disc golf course is open. A fenced driveway begins at 5501 Chimra Road and leads to a parking lot that allows walk-through access. A small shelter with picnic table is near the parking lot. Finishing touches such as bluebird houses, additional signage and five benches will be added this spring.

Funds raised at past Beach Balls helped improve playgrounds at all three beaches, install sports courts at both Boulder and Sunset beaches, create a dog park, enhance the Panorama West Nature Trail, add 20 new benches at beaches and golf courses, and several smaller projects.

A current priority project is raising money for trees to be planted on the west side of the lake along the main entrance and at Sunset Beach and on the east side of the lake at Boulder Beach. These new trees will go in areas where older trees had to be removed because of storm damage or disease.

Details on all past and current projects are available on the Friends website. Friends of Lake Panorama also has a Facebook page.

All donations are tax-deductible. Donors of \$500 or more are recognized on signs erected near specific projects they designate and on the donor page of the Friends website.

Tax-deductible donations can be made at any time by check payable to Friends of Lake Panorama and mailed to Friends of Lake Panorama, P.O. Box 488, Panora, Iowa, 50216. Donations also can be made using VENMO @Panorama-Friends, or by credit card on the Friends website at friendsoflakepanorama.org. ■



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CONTEST

BEST OF GUTHRIE COUNTY POLL LAUNCHED

Best pizza. Best pastor. Best park. And 79 other categories. Those are the basis of the Best of Guthrie County poll that was recently launched by Big Green Umbrella Media, the publisher of Lake Panorama Times.

"Many central Iowans are familiar with the Best of Des Moines poll that readers of CITYVIEW magazine have participated in for more than a quarter of a century," said Shane Goodman, editor and publisher of CITYVIEW and the president of Big Green Umbrella Media. "CITYVIEW's Best of Des Moines certificates are proudly displayed in stores, restaurants, bars and offices, and the recognition provides an incredibly positive impact for the people, places, businesses and events that are deemed the winners."

The CITYVIEW Best of Des Moines poll consisted of 271 questions with a whopping 22,969 votes — the most ever in the history of the poll.

"I have learned a lot in administering this poll and the related event that we have now hosted for 16 years," said Goodman, who also serves as the editor and publisher of Panora Times.

A few years ago, Goodman implemented a similar effort with his 14 Iowa Living magazines called Residents' Choice polls.

"The bottom line is that people want to know who local residents feel are the 'best' in a variety of categories," Goodman said. "It is a fun competition."

Goodman noted that whenever they do these types of reader polls, he stresses that the results are not his opinions or opinions of his staff but are the results of the votes from readers.

"That is a very important distinction," he said.

With readers' polls working in Des Moines and in the suburbs and nearby communities, Goodman decided to launch a similar effort in Guthrie County with the



Best of Guthrie County poll.

"This is our inaugural effort, and the poll will certainly change in future years," Goodman said.

Readers simply fill in the blanks in one category or all 82. The poll is being promoted in the company's publications, emails, social media and mailers to encourage widespread participation.

"I hope everyone takes the time to vote and to also share the link with their family, neighbors, co-workers and anyone in Guthrie County and encourage them to do the same," he said.

The poll results will show if any readers try to beat the system and vote multiple times.

"We catch the cheaters who try to vote more than once and throw those votes out, so don't even try," Goodman said.

Goodman says they make voting "incredibly easy."

"You can choose to vote in just one category, or you can vote in all 82," he said. "But, just like the political elections, once you submit your choices, you can't go back."

The poll rules and the link to vote can be found at www.gctimesnews.com/best-of. ■

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VOTE TODAY!

We all have our favorite local people, places and things. And now it's time to share your choices and honor those who deserve the recognition.

HURRY! POLL CLOSES JULY 15, 2024.

See rules and vote at <https://gctimesnews.com/best-of>



- Best Guthrie County Place for Pizza
- Best Guthrie County Parent/Child Date Spot
- Best Guthrie County Bank
- Best Guthrie County Hair Salon
- Best Guthrie County Doctor (person)
- Best Guthrie County Dentist (person)
- Best Guthrie County Chiropractor (person)
- Best Guthrie County Eye Doctor (person)
- Best Guthrie County Veterinarian (person)
- Best Guthrie County Pastor (person)
- Best Guthrie County Health Club/Gym
- Best Guthrie County Boutique
- Best Guthrie County Retail Store
- Best Guthrie County School
- Best Guthrie County Park
- Best Guthrie County Place for a Field Trip
- Best Guthrie County Community Festival
- Best Guthrie County Teacher
- Best Guthrie County Coach
- Best Guthrie County Church
- Best Spot for Dessert in Guthrie County
- Best Spot for Breakfast in Guthrie County
- Best Lunch Spot in Guthrie County
- Best Dinner Spot in Guthrie County
- Best Ice Cream Place in Guthrie County
- Best Guthrie County Daycare
- Best Guthrie County Library
- Best Guthrie County Chamber of Commerce

- Best Camping Spot in Guthrie County
- Best Guthrie County Photographer
- Best Guthrie County Dance Studio
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- Best Guthrie County Place to Hold an Event
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- Best Guthrie County Realtor (person)
- Best Guthrie County Bar
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- Best Guthrie County Place for Guests to Stay
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- Best Guthrie County Real Estate Company
- Best Guthrie County Customer Service (overall)
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- Best Guthrie County First Date Spot
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TEACHERS' SUBTITLES. ANOTHER FRANKENSTEIN. MORE SPIDER-VERSE.

BY MICHAEL C. WOODY
Lake Panorama Times

If you have not been to the movies lately, you've missed some good films. Some of these will still be in theaters, but others might be close to streaming. Keep this article handy to remind you to look for them.

“THE TEACHERS’ LOUNGE”

I knew nothing about this movie going in and have praised it ever since that day. It is nominated for Best International Film (formerly known as Best Foreign Film). It is in German with subtitles. By the way, contrary to public opinion, no one has ever been injured by a subtitle. The movie is about a teacher in a German school who discovers a co-worker is responsible for thefts in the teachers’ lounge. When she confronts her, you know what hits



“The Teachers’ Lounge”

the fan. And, of course, the person denies the accusation, and it becomes a “she said/she said” battle with the accuser being the one who is persecuted. It is a powerful film and a powerful statement on the world we live in. One of the best films I saw last year. **Grade: A**



“Lisa Frankenstein”

“LISA FRANKENSTEIN”

I drove across Des Moines from the south-side Fleur Cinema to Waukee and The Palms Theatres to see the second movie of the day, a modern twist on the Frankenstein story. My expectations were low, but the film managed to surprise me. It was entertaining and,



“The Zone of Interest”

at times, charming. A high school girl hanging out with a guy who literally pulled himself from his grave during a lightning storm is a unique story, but Diablo Cody, who wrote the great movie “Juno” back in 2007, shows that she still has the chops to write a funny and clever film. **Grade: C+**

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"Madame Web"



"Bob Marley: One Love"



"Drive-Away Dolls"



"Dune: Part 2"

"THE ZONE OF INTEREST"

"The Teachers' Lounge" was intense and powerful, but this look at the people living in an opulent home next to the notorious Auschwitz prison camp ranks close. It's an oddly made film, giving us scene after scene of their everyday life with little formal storytelling. It is a story that is difficult to believe. The screams and gunshots were completely ignored as if they didn't happen. Tough to sit through, but a fascinating tale. Grade: A-

"MADAME WEB"

Dakota Johnson from the "Shades of Grey" films joins the Marvel Universe as a fringe character in the Spider-Verse in an effort from the Sony company to continue to milk the Spider-Man deal they

signed years ago with Marvel Comics. The film has been universally trashed, and Johnson has been excoriated. My grown son and I went to this with low expectations, and we both enjoyed it. Not sure what people were expecting. Grade: C+

"BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE"

My knowledge of Bob Marley is limited. I know a couple of his songs, but the depth of his political activism and his dogged artistic drive were surprising to me. The movie is well made, but I really could have used subtitles as the accents, though accurate, were difficult to understand. It is a good movie that I will rewatch at home with subtitles and will probably appreciate it even more. Grade: B+

"DRIVE-AWAY DOLLS"

Director/writer Joel Coen (of the Coen brothers) gives us a raunchy and profane story of two women on a road-trip in a car with a unique present in the trunk. The movie and the language never hold back, which produces a mixture of shock and "laugh-out-loud" moments. One of the craziest movies I've seen in a while, and it is sure to offend many. Grade: C

"DUNE: PART 2"

One of the movies I was most looking forward to this year. Director Denis Villeneuve and a tremendous returning cast deliver a super-long (2:45) sequel that, in my opinion, brings up more questions than answers. I loved the first film, but this sequel was long and confusing. Word to the wise — if you are going to see

this film, do yourself a favor and drive to Waukee and see it in the IMAX theatre. Visually stunning! Grade: B-

The recent weather tells me spring is coming soon, but a true Iowan is a little skeptical. Enjoy! ■

Michael C. Woody has been reviewing movies on radio and television since 1986 and can be heard talking movies every Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. on KXn0 106.3 with Keith Murphy and Andy Fales. You can also follow him on Twitter @MrMovieDSM. He and his wife, Susan, are residents of Lake Panorama.



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POST-PANDEMIC OUTDOOR LIVING TRENDS FOR 2024

BY LYNN KUHN
Special to Lake Panorama Times

I often talk with other designers from Iowa and around the country about what clients are asking for in the design of their outdoor spaces, and the same themes keep coming up. They seem to reflect a shift in our values in a post-pandemic world.

- Connecting with people outdoors, rather than indoors, and doing it at home
- More emphasis on health, both physical and mental
- Getting away in the backyard instead of going on vacation-staycation
- Connecting with nature/biophilia as a way to manage stress and improve mental health
- Functional outdoor spaces for recreation, entertainment, playing games, plus working and learning from home
- More new gardeners, especially interested in growing edibles and pollinator-friendly plants
- More emphasis on front-yard curb appeal and functionality

How these specific requests and overall themes are expressed in the landscape varies based on the client's values, budget and overall desired outdoor living experiences. I am sharing the top three outdoor living trends for 2024 that might inspire your next landscape project.

NO. 1: BACKYARD GETAWAYS

This isn't exactly a new trend, however, the reasons we seek to get away have shifted a bit. Clients want more than a beautiful garden to gaze upon out the window or while sitting on the deck. They want to feel like they are "getting away from it all" in their own backyard. For some, that means having activities to stay busy and entertained, such as vegetable gardening, outdoor checkers, movies, playing video games, swimming, ping pong, etc. For others, it means more relaxing activities such as outdoor cooking and dining, lounging by a fire, or stargazing. For garden enthusiasts, it may mean tending to garden plants, pulling weeds and pondering what you'll plant next season, which takes us to trend No. 2.

NO. 2: MORE GARDENERS AND MORE GARDENS

The days of wrapping foundation plantings around the house and calling it "done" are over. In a post-pandemic world, the role of the garden has exploded in the most wonderful ways.

Edibles. People want to grow their own fresh herbs and veggies. It's less expensive, more flavorful, healthier organic, which means fewer trips to the store plus the added benefits of getting fresh air and reducing stress.

Designer's Tip: *Rather than creating a dedicated veggie garden, tuck attractive edibles such as lettuce, onion, and peppers amongst ornamental plants in the planting border or in pots on the deck or patio.*



Back Yard Getaway: This backyard was transformed into a "Pool Courtyard." The multi-functional cabana anchors one end of the space and boasts comfortable space for TV watching, kitchenette with pantry, banquette for dining and playing games, peninsula bar area, plus space for working from home. Other project features include giant checkerboard, movie wall, hot tub, storage, raised veggie garden and really smart planting pockets, all surrounded with a privacy hedge of Juniperus "Taylor."

Next Level Front Yard Gardens. During the pandemic, the front yard became a safe place to connect with neighbors and friends. This prompted larger and more beautiful planting beds and places to sit and socialize. Personally, I am thrilled to see a return to the social side of the front yard garden.

Designer's Tip: *Some front yard plantings look like they are pushed up tightly against*

the house. Instead, stretch the planting beds toward the street, along the driveway or out into the yard around a tree.

Biophilic Landscape Design. As humans, we have a biologically driven need to connect with nature and other living things. This is biophilia, which means "love of life." Biophilic design principles are increasingly showing up in architecture, interior design

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Two black and white photos of veterans. The first photo shows a man in a military uniform, and the second photo shows a man in a military uniform with a hat.



Next Level Front Yard Garden. This townhome's small front yard is certainly "next level." This garden has become a haven for bees and butterflies and the talk of the neighborhood.

and landscape design. One example is vertical gardening, which may be a planted green wall, vines climbing up a column, or using tree stumps and large stones as furniture. When we incorporate natural elements of all kinds in interesting ways, the space becomes more inviting, allowing us to immerse ourselves in nature. This is a broader way to think of the garden and outdoor living in general and is driving people toward growing houseplants and taking up gardening.

NO. 3: MITIGATING MOTHER NATURE

Many people desire spending more time outdoors but don't due to conditions such as too hot/cold, too windy, too sunny, too dark or too buggy. There are ways to mitigate these natural conditions. Here are a few ways to remove barriers to spending time outdoors. These features can add functionality and beauty to outdoor spaces.

- Too hot: ceiling fan misters, tree canopies, water feature
- Too cold: fencing/hedging to block wind, fire feature
- Too buggy: ceiling fan, emitters
- Too dark: fire feature, outdoor lamp
- Too sunny: tree canopy, pergola with vines, shade sails, umbrella
- Too windy: fencing/hedging



Biophilic Landscape Design. In this space, patrons have direct contact with vines and other plants, tabletops are made from reclaimed wood salvaged from a nearby barn, and the scent of Sweet Autumn Clematis (*Clematis terniflora*) fills the air. The ceiling fan keeps the space cool and the bugs at bay, while the string lights provide just enough light to linger into the evening.

It's fun to stay on top of outdoor living and gardening trends and see how they vary from region to region, especially here in the Midwest. What trends are you seeing here in central Iowa? I'd love to hear from you. Email me at lynn@conversationgardens.com. ■

Written by Lynn Kuhn, author of "Conversation Gardens: Where Conversations Flow and Relationships Grow." She is a landscape architect, speaker and owner of Conversation Gardens (formerly Outdoor Transformations). You can reach Lynn at lynn@conversationgardens.com or www.conversationgardens.com.



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COMMUNITY



Jonetta Long, Ellen Betzer and Sharon Neel serve the community as part of Faith Bible Church's fellowship.

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH COMMUNITY MEALS

BY RICH WICKS

Lake Panorama Times

Once each month, Faith Bible Church in Panora offers a community meal. Senior Pastor Trevor Nunn said, although donations are accepted, it's not a fundraiser but rather an opportunity to welcome everyone for food and fellowship.

The meals are regularly scheduled on the third Wednesday of each month, serving from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The next meal will be March 20 and will include baked potato bar and toppings, tossed salad, carrots, celery and cookie bars. On April 17, the meal will be sliced ham, cheesy potatoes, smothered green beans and cupcakes. ■



A hungry crowd enjoys the meal at Faith Bible Church on Feb. 21.

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PAPER-SHREDDING TRUCK TO BE IN PANORA ON MAY 4

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Spring cleaning time is upon us. Once the April 15 federal tax filing deadline passes, most people are ready to clean out files and discard previous year's tax returns, along with other papers that accumulate in their home office. Again this year, Panora Public Library to the rescue.

"We like the shredding truck to come after tax time, so people can safely dispose of old documents and tax-related forms," says Kim Finnegan, director

of the Panora Public Library. "This is a service we like to provide to the Lake Panorama, Panora and surrounding communities, because they support us throughout the year."

There is no cost to individuals to drop off paper documents to be shredded. The Panora Public Library uses donated funds to cover the cost of this community service.

The "Shred-It" truck will be at the Panora Public Library Saturday, May 4 from 9-11 a.m. Those who plan to drop off paper to be shredded are asked to pull into the driveway north of the library. ■

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NEW FIRM FOCUSES ON WORKPLACE BENEFITS, FINANCIAL LITERACY

**Mitch Johnk co-founded
Panorama Benefits
Company with Ellen Betzer.**

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Mitch Johnk has spent 38 years working in the financial services industry with more than 20 of those in Panora. He and his wife, Kim, moved their family to Lake Panorama when he joined Frank Teale in his financial services company in Panora.

Johnk partnered with Teale until Teale's retirement in 2004. That same year, Johnk established Total Financial Solutions with partner Jeff Dvorak. This past October, Johnk sold a portion of his practice to Dvorak.

At the same time, Johnk co-founded Panorama Benefits Company with Ellen Betzer. Betzer and her husband, Scott, moved to Lake Panorama more than 20 years ago. She has 36 years of experience as an executive assistant and in customer service, including 17 years working with Johnk. Now she is operations manager for the new company.

Johnk is the company president. In 1986, he earned a bachelor's degree from Simpson College in business, management and marketing. He followed that with a 1991 master's degree in business administration at Drake University.

"I've been thinking about this change for a couple of years," Johnk says. "We had built a good-sized practice with a lot of individual clients and some businesses. I turn 60 in April,

and for the last few years of my career, I want to make a bigger impact. I decided a good way to do that is to bring in more business clients."

Johnk describes Panorama Benefits as a consulting company that specializes in retention strategies for businesses, plus has a passion for workplace financial literacy.

"The employment landscape has changed," Johnk says. "To attract and retain quality talent, businesses need to adapt to this new environment. Also, the level of financial literacy needs to be raised. Traditional education doesn't address it. The workplace is a good place to address this, because it's where employees get their income and their benefits."

Johnk says too often employees leave for a different job because they can earn more money, but the benefits package may not be as good.

"The main entrée offered by employers is health insurance," he says. "The rest of the benefits are just checking boxes. But employees need to understand what they have. Is there life insurance, disability insurance, what's the maximum the employee can contribute toward their retirement? All of these things are just as important as health insurance."

Johnk says effective compensation and benefits programs should not only attract and retain talent but also reward and facilitate retirement. He says this can be done by providing competitive salaries and benefits within a nurturing work environment, emphasizing additional benefits tied to productivity rather than just participation, and viewing these programs as investments in employees' financial stability, rather than as expenses.

Right now, Johnk is doing a lot of network-



Mitch Johnk and Ellen Betzer are shown with the Panorama Benefits Company's new logo on the window of the firm's business at 110 East Main St. in Panora.

ing, looking for referrals and making cold calls, just as he did when he started in the financial services industry. He's attended a couple of association conferences, and he and Betzer have participated in one association trade show.

"We can provide the product-based solutions and assessment services needed and become an extension of their human resources department," he says. "We would review their employees' needs and their current benefits. There is a good chance we would suggest some adjustments to help with employee retention. We would help owners, executives and rank-and-file workers understand their benefits and develop programs to help im-

prove their financial wellness."

Johnk says he chose the name Panorama Benefits to boost interest in Lake Panorama and Panora.

"I see us hosting company culture-building events at Lake Panorama and people from the companies we serve becoming familiar with what Panora has to offer," he says. "We are excited about where this goes and the positive impact it could have on our community."

The Panorama Benefits Co. offices are at 110 East Main, the same building where Johnk has been serving his clients for more than 20 years. Additional information, including contact details for Johnk and Betzer, is on the firm's website, panoramabenefits.com. ■

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LPA and Friends of Lake Panorama have partnered to raise money for trees to be planted in areas where others had to be removed because of disease and storm damage. Sugar maples from the Isom Tree Farm will be transplanted with a tree spade to locations along Panorama Road and Sunset Beach on the west side of the lake and at Boulder Beach on the east side.

TREE FUNDRAISING EXPANDS TO BOULDER BEACH

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Donations have reached \$7,375 to plant new trees where old ones were removed at Lake Panorama. The original goal of \$4,500 will cover the cost of planting 11 trees on the west side of the lake along Panorama Road north of the guard shack and two at Sunset Beach. The extra funds will make it possible to add more trees than planned to those two locations.

Boulder Beach also needs new trees to replace several lost to disease, so Friends of Lake Panorama is accepting donations for Boulder Beach trees. Enough money has been raised to date to plant three new trees at Boulder, but additional ones are needed to fill in gaps.

Isom Tree Farm will plant trees in mid-April with the final number and locations dependent on donations received by late March. The plan includes several sugar maple trees that will be planted with a tree spade. Larry and Heather Isom, who live on Burchfield Cove and own Isom Tree Farm, plan to donate one sugar maple.

Nursery trees also will be planted by hand in all locations and include red maples, London planetrees and autumn blaze maples.

Donors of \$500 or more can make their contribution in honor or memory of someone and are recognized on the Friends website. Larger and smaller donations also are welcome.

Donations to Friends of Lake Panorama are tax-deductible. Donations can be made by check payable to Friends of Lake Panorama and mailed to Friends, P.O. Box 488, Panora, Iowa, 50216. Donations also can be made through Venmo @Panorama-Friends or by credit card at friendsoflakepanorama.org. ■



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INVEST: Once you have a solid foundation set for your emergency fund, a great way to continue building financial security is through investing. Having six months of expenses saved up puts you in a great place but investing can take you to a whole new level. The first step is to identify an investment strategy. Especially given today's higher interest rate environment, you'll want to consider options like CDs, bonds, retirement accounts, college savings plans, life insurance, and more.

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NOTICE

BURN BAN IMPLEMENTED IN GUTHRIE COUNTY

Special to Lake Panorama Times

Jeremy Cooper, deputy coordinator with Adair and Guthrie County EMA, working with the fire departments in Adair and Guthrie counties, requested the State Fire Marshal prohibit open burning due to potential hazards to life and property. The State Fire Marshal's Office granted the request; therefore, no person is allowed to engage in open burning in Adair and Guthrie counties until conditions improve. This order became effective on Feb. 24 at 8 a.m. Violators of this order could be charged with a misdemeanor.

"Adair and Guthrie county fire departments have seen the effects of fires in extreme conditions, and they want to do everything they can to help mitigate life-threatening incidents from

occurring," Cooper said. "These fire departments are volunteer departments that respond to calls that pull them from their everyday life and work and become very taxing on those volunteers. We have been in a drought for over four years, and conditions have not improved much. We have experienced an abnormal winter with only one major snow event that didn't help with the overall moisture levels. Hopefully, in the coming weeks, things will improve and start greening up."

Updates on burn bans can be found at the State Fire Marshal's website at dps.iowa.gov/divisions/state-fire-marshal/burn-bans. ■



HEALTH

GCH ADDS EAR, NOSE AND THROAT (ENT) SERVICES

Special to Lake Panorama Times

Guthrie County Hospital (GCH) welcomes Dr. Austin Bancroft, who is providing ear, nose and throat (ENT) services.

Dr. Bancroft completed his otolaryngology (ENT) residency at Michigan State University and his doctorate of osteopathic medicine at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. He provides services for pediatrics and adults, including examination, diagnosis

and treatment of issues with the ears, nose and throat.

Bancroft will be consulting with patients and performing surgeries. He is accepting new patients. For more information on this service or to schedule an appointment, contact the GCH Specialty Clinic at 641-332-3900. ■



Austin Bancroft

EVENT



PANORA CHAMBER EASTER EGG HUNT IS SATURDAY, MARCH 30

Special to Lake Panorama Times

The Panora Chamber of Commerce will be holding its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 20 at the Guthrie County Historical Village, 206 W. South St. in Panora. More details to come at gctimesnews.com.

The Chamber is asking for Easter

candy donations to be delivered no later than March 18 to Iowa Trust, Guthrie County State Bank or Panora Fiber. The candy is to be bite-sized and individually wrapped. Volunteers are also being sought. Email panora-chamber@gmail.com and you will be connected with a committee member. ■

HEALTH

GCH LAUNCHES PATIENTS LIKE ME SUPPORT GROUP

Special to Lake Panorama Times

Guthrie County Hospital has launched Patients Like Me Support Group. This has been established for people in the community affected by neurological/movement challenges to provide support while also providing education on a wide variety of resources. Care partners, family members

and friends are all welcome to attend. A short exercise session, led by a licensed therapist, will start each group meeting that will be modifiable to all activity levels. Education and discussion will take place after. These meetings are held the second Thursday of the month (March - October) at 2 p.m. at the GCH Fitness Center (710 N. 12th St., Guthrie Center). ■

GUTHRIE COUNTY

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ELECTIONS

JOHNSON ANNOUNCES BID FOR REELECTION TO GUTHRIE COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 2

Special to Lake Panorama Times

Brian Johnson announced his bid for reelection for Guthrie County Supervisor, District 2. Johnson, a Republican, was elected as District 2 Supervisor in 2022. As a result of reapportionment, Johnson is serving a two-year term and is now seeking re-election for a full four-year term in the 2024 election. Johnson's district includes Yale, Jamaica, Bagley, the Victory Township portion of Lake Panorama, rural areas in northeast Guthrie County, and select rural areas north and northwest of Guthrie Center.

"Representing District 2 has been a humbling and rewarding experience," Johnson said. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to represent the proud communities and rural areas of this district. It was an honor serving as board chair my first year, and I'm excited to continue the important work of Guthrie County. As we begin our budget process, I will advocate for a balance between providing top-notch county services and ensuring the responsible management of property tax dollars. Voters can count on me to advocate for transparency, professionalism, and efficiency in county government."

Johnson highlighted the designation of EMS as an essential service as a top priority for the coming year.

"The issue of EMS is both important and challenging," he said. "I believe it is our duty to submit a proposal to the voters of Guthrie County, so we can come together and implement cooperative solutions for the good of everyone. I will do my part to help ensure county government provides trusted leadership on this topic."

Johnson said he has a great deal of pride and confidence in Guthrie County.

"Our county has great potential to not only navigate the challenges we face, but also to grow, prosper and thrive," he said. "I will continue to be a supporter of economic development initiatives and strategic partnerships that position our communities and rural areas for future success."

Johnson spent 12 years in education before switching careers and representing a variety of entities at the Iowa Capitol. He and his wife, JoAnn, live at Lake Panorama and are active in the Panora community. They enjoy spending time with their grandchildren, all who live in the area.

In addition to finishing a two-year term on the county supervisors board, Johnson serves on the board of Midwest Partnership; the Policy Committee of Region XII; is a member of Guthrie County 10 Squared Men; a board member of Panora Retirement Homes; member of the Sons of the American Legion; a volunteer and supporter of a number of community projects; and has long relationships with a number of associations, including the Iowa Taxpayers Association and the Iowa Association of Business and Industry.

"I sincerely appreciate all the support these past two years and respectfully ask District 2 voters for their support in the upcoming 2024 elections," he said. "I appreciate the opportunity to represent not only District 2 but to also serve for the good of Guthrie County as a whole." ■



Brian Johnson

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IMPACT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

The Greater Des Moines Partnership is an economic and community development organization that serves Greater Des Moines. The partnership also represents 11 counties, including Guthrie County.

Tiffany Tauscheck is president and CEO of the organization. For eight years, she has led various areas of work at The Partnership, including strategic planning, operations, investor relations, economic development and regional initiatives.

Tauscheck and her husband, Mark, have two children and spend significant time at Lake Panorama. In this month's Q&A, she answers questions about the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Guthrie County development initiatives, and the time she and her family spend at Lake

Panorama.

Q. LET'S START WITH AN OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP, AS IT RELATES TO THE DES MOINES METRO AREA.

A. The Partnership is an economic development and community development organization serving an 11-county region. Our organization is unique in its structure and emphasis on regional collaboration. We have more than 400 investors who invest in The Partnership because they want to make the Greater Des Moines region a top place for businesses and people. We have 23 affiliate chambers of commerce that are part of our overall network. Through our affiliate chamber network, we have more than 6,500 members, which makes us the fourth-largest regional chamber of commerce

in the country.

We often have peers across the country who look to emulate our model. Our focus is on economic development and talent development with public policy as a supporting strategy. In 2023, we assisted with more than 30 economic development projects in the region and reached hundreds of thousands of people from across the country and world through our "Do Something Greater" economic development and talent attraction marketing campaign. We will build on our economic and talent development success in 2024 by taking innovative, data-driven approaches to securing business relocation and expansion projects, and expanding the talent pipeline.



Tiffany Tauscheck

Q. NOW EXPAND BEYOND THE METRO AREA, AND EXPLAIN THE ROLE THE PARTNERSHIP PLAYS IN THE 10 COUNTIES BEYOND POLK COUNTY.

A. The Partnership's footprint is 11-counties strong, which includes Guthrie County. We work with partners across the 11 counties to secure economic development projects, attract and develop talent, and enhance the quality of life throughout the region. At its core, The Partnership is a convener. We bring leaders from the public, private and non-profit sectors together to address challenges and create ways to make our region stand out. We believe our region is stronger because we work as one region and one partnership. One example of the impact we can have as a region is our annual trip to Washington, D.C. We bring more than 180 leaders from across the region to advocate for our federal

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policy priorities, and our voice is noticed by Iowa's congressional delegation. This year's trip is May 8-10, and we encourage leaders in Guthrie County to consider attending.

Q. LET'S TALK ABOUT GUTHRIE COUNTY IN PARTICULAR. WHAT WORK GETS DONE IN GUTHRIE COUNTY AS A RESULT OF BEING REPRESENTED BY THE PARTNERSHIP?

A. I began my role as president and CEO of The Partnership in July of 2023 after eight years in the organization leading different areas of work. One of my first priorities in this new position was to work with our team to conduct an 11-County Listening Tour. It was important to me to meet face to face with our stakeholders to listen and learn. We asked the same questions in each meeting with the goal of hearing from them in their own words what we do well and what we can do better.

We met with more than 375 people, including investors, chamber leaders, city and county leaders, economic development leaders, small business owners, educators and policymakers from across our 11 counties. In Guthrie County, specifically, we met with several city leaders, economic development practitioners

and local businesspeople in Panora and Stuart. One theme we heard over and over throughout the tour was an eagerness to strengthen connections between rural, suburban and urban communities. That led to us launching a Regional Community Integration strategy in early 2024. Now we have an intentional focus on getting our team members into each of our 11 counties on a consistent basis. Our goal is help facilitate cross-county connections and discover success stories that we can help amplify. We also plan to host a new Regionalism Summit in 2024 to bring together leaders from rural, suburban and urban communities.

Our work with Guthrie County expands beyond the 11-County Listening Tour. In economic development, we work closely with the Midwest Partnership that serves Guthrie and Adair counties, and we recently consulted with them as they reestablished their business retention and expansion program. In January, we hosted our In-District Congressional Event with Representative Zach Nunn in Casey. We look forward to continuing to work closely with Guthrie County leaders on more projects in 2024 and beyond.

Q. WHEN AND HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN THE

BUSINESS OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?

A. I started off my career working as a television journalist, so storytelling has always been core to what I do. I believe there is great power through storytelling to inform and inspire. Through different roles in television and post-television, I discovered my passion for community development through regional collaboration and finding common ground with various leaders on a shared vision of making our region even better. That is what led me to The Partnership. No matter what role I have had, I am passionate about teamwork, serving our investors, affiliates and members, and shaping this community for future generations.

Q. CAN YOU SHARE STATISTICS THAT DEMONSTRATE GROWTH WITHIN THE GREATER DES MOINES REGION?

A. From 2012 to 2022, which is the latest data available, Greater Des Moines has been the fastest growing region in the Midwest in terms of percentage of population growth, gross domestic product growth and employment growth. We believe our region's momentum is due in large part to our ability to collaborate as public, private and nonprofit partners across jurisdictional boundaries. We do

this with a shared vision. One example of this is Capital Crossroads, which has celebrated hundreds of successes since 2011 and is now in its latest iteration as the Capital Crossroads Roadmap to Opportunity and Prosperity for All. Our momentum as a community is no accident; it is intentional.

Q. WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT THE TIME YOU SPEND IN THE LAKE COMMUNITY AT LAKE PANORAMA?

A. My husband, our two children and I love to spend time outdoors, and one of our favorite places is Lake Panorama. We especially enjoy boating and fishing at the lake.

Q. ANY FINAL THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE GREATER DES MOINES AREA, INCLUDING THE 11 COUNTIES REPRESENTED?

A. The future is bright, and we are stronger together. We invite the leaders in Guthrie County to reach out to us any time to let us know how we can help them or share story ideas that we can amplify on our communications channels. ■



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PHOTOS BY BETTY COOPER | LAKE PANORAMA TIMES

PANORAMA WINS ITS WAY TO STATE TITLE GAME, FALLS TO DIKE-NEW HARTFORD, 48-46

BY CYOTE WILLIAMS
Lake Panorama Times

After an incredible regular season and a thrilling playoff run, the No. 2 Panorama Panthers (25-2) lost in the IGHSAU 2A state championship game against the Dike-New Hartford Wolverines on March 2 at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. Panorama's two losses on the season were by a combined 3 points.

Dike-New Hartford star and one of the best players in the state overall, Payton Petersen, was the main factor in Panorama's loss. Petersen finished her final game with 27 points and 14 rebounds. On the Panthers' side, the team's key players spread the wealth on offense and defense. Jaidyn Sellers led Panorama in scoring with 20 points and nearly had an unconventional triple-double, adding 9 rebounds and 9 steals. Tyme Boettcher

added 13 points, 6 rebounds and 4 steals. Mia Waddle nearly hit double figures in points with 8, while adding 3 assists. Panorama endured some hard-fought battles during the post-season run, pulling out close victories in all three games before the state championship game. They defeated Denver (16-8) in the Class 2A region 2 substate final to qualify for state by 4 in overtime, pulled away late after being down double digits early against Grundy Center (21-3) in the quarterfinals of the state tournament, and survived a late rally from (previously) undefeated Westwood (22-1) in the semi-final to advance to the championship game. While this dominant Panorama team was no Cinderella story, the past few weeks were not for the faint of heart and made for a post-season run that Panther players, coaches and fans won't forget. ■



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LAKE PANORAMA COUPLE REFLECTS ON 75 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Bob and Betty White share advice for young married couples who hope to make it to the 75-year mark.

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

Bob and Betty White have lived on Lake Panorama's Christmas Tree Point for 37 years. Their first house on Andrews Terrace was purchased in 1987, and they split time between there and Urbandale. Since 1992, they have lived fulltime in a waterfront home they built near that first house.

The couple celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary Sept. 10, 2023. This year, each will turn 95 years old, first Bob on April 21 and Betty on Oct. 16.

Bob was born in Guthrie Center, and his family moved to Winterset a year later. Betty was born on a farm near Pitzer, which is northwest of Winterset. They were both juniors at Winterset High School when they started dating. Neither had a car. Both could sometimes borrow their parents' cars, and their dates often centered around the local movie theater.

They graduated from high school in 1947 and married in 1948. Betty had three bridesmaids, and Bob had three groomsmen. The ceremony was held in the Christian Church in Winterset, where Bob's family attended. Betty's family attended the Lutheran Church, but that building was too small to accommodate the event. Pastors from both churches had a role in the ceremony.

A reception at the church was planned for after the ceremony. In between,

friends of each of the couple kidnapped them and took them for car rides around the area before returning them to the church.

"I remember neither of us got back for a while, and I was nervous about that," Betty says.

The couple honeymooned in Omaha, where they stayed two nights.

"It was all we could afford," Bob says. "Plus, we had to get back home to move into our apartment in Des Moines."

Betty remembers the address of that first apartment, 1538 18th St. Later they moved to a basement apartment in a home north of Roosevelt High School. While in Des Moines, Bob worked for a grain processing plant, and Betty worked for Bankers Life.

In 1952, Bob was drafted into the Army. Betty worked for the Army Reserve and was assigned the task of typing up Bob's intake papers. After basic training, he was stationed in California.

"Bob's mother drove me and another girl to California to be with our husbands. It wasn't long before Bob was shipped out to Germany. I tried to stay, but I was so lonely. I came back to Iowa and moved back in with my parents. I went back to work at Bankers Life, driving to Des Moines from my parents' farm each day," Betty says.

Bob was in Germany for a year-and-a-half, assigned to a mail train. He was discharged in 1954.



Betty and Bob White share smiles in front of the fireplace in their Lake Panorama home on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

Beginning in the late 1920s, Bob's father was a partner in the Winterset Monument company. Bob had worked summers during high school in the family-owned granite finishing plant. Once out of the Army, the couple found an apartment in Winterset, and he returned to the family business.

The couple's first child, Dennis, was born in 1955. Their family now includes son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Debbie White, who live in Colorado; son and daughter-in-law, Noel and Patty White, Arkansas; and son-in-law and daughter, Joel and Michele Van Vark, who live in Johnston. They have eight

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Bob White was 19 years old and Betty was 18 when they married Sept. 10, 1948. The ceremony was followed by a reception that included this multi-tier cake.

grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

In 1958, the couple moved to Des Moines and Bob became president of Des Moines-Winterset Memorials. Over the next 30 years, the couple purchased controlling interest in the company. In 1992, the couple sold the company and Bob retired.

During Bob's time with the company, he designed and placed more than 200,000 granite and bronze memorials and other granite pieces such as church altars and war memorials. Two of the most well-known are the Korean and VFW memorials at the Iowa Capitol.

When the three children were old enough, a fold-down camper was purchased, and the family started to travel. Favorite destinations were Canada for fishing, plus all along the West Coast.



Bob and Betty White celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary Sept. 10, 2023. The ceremony was held in the Christian Church in Winterset, where Bob's family attended. Betty's family attended the Lutheran Church, but that building was too small to accommodate the event.

The family liked it well enough they eventually upgraded to a larger travel trailer for their vacations.

The couple owned a small boat and wanted to use it more. In 1987, they made the drive from Des Moines to Panora to look at boats and check out Lake Panorama.

"We decided to drive around," Betty says. "We saw a house on Christmas Tree Point for sale and bought it."

Bob has long been an avid golfer and soon was playing regularly at the Panorama West golf course. He was instrumental in helping create par 4 tees on some holes at the course. On the second

hole, he mowed, cleared trees and bushes, then planted new shrubs. Since then, the couple has maintained the shrubs and sometimes flowers near the par-4 tee box.

Bob and Betty's children surprised them in 2021 with a granite bench from Des Moines-Winterset Memorials on that tee box. The bench is inscribed with the couple's names and states it is "in recognition of their many contributions to Lake Panorama and the Panorama West golf course."

In May 1995, Bob was elected to a three-year term on the LPA board of directors and served as board president

his final year. He played a role in getting board approval to build the Panorama West clubhouse, which was completed in 1997.

For more than 25 years, the Whites kept the Panorama Road entrance to Lake Panorama looking good by trimming bushes, painting signs and planting flowers near the old guard shack. In 2021, they passed the baton for that volunteer job to Jim and Emily Spradling. The couple says they've enjoyed the many years they've lived and volunteered at Lake Panorama.

The couple's daughter, Michele Van Vark, talks about the childhood she and

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This photo of Bob and Betty White was taken in December 1951, shortly after Bob was drafted into the Army. Betty worked for the Army Reserve and was typing up Bob's Army intake papers.

her two brothers experienced.

"We were raised in a peaceful, supportive environment," she says. "There was always humor. Mom and Dad had mutual respect for each other and worked as a team. If there was something needed, they worked together to make it happen. They were phenomenal role models for us. I didn't realize how idyllic my childhood was until I became an adult."

Van Vark knows why her parents' marriage is different than many others.

"They legitimately always put the other person first," she says. "It's like when slices of cake are being offered. Most people want the biggest piece for themselves. But for my parents, each wants the other person to have the biggest and best."

On Valentine's Day this February, the Whites reflected on the question of what advice they might offer young married couples who hope to make it to the 75-year mark.

"I think we both have always just tried to take care of each other," Betty says. "He always helped with the kids, and I helped him when I could. I think we've been fortunate neither of us has a bad temper."

"I can't remember us ever having a serious argument," Bob says. "We usually just work things out, and we have a good time. One thing that helps is that



Betty and Bob White were married Sept. 10, 1948. They started dating when they were both juniors at Winterset High School.

I learned a long time ago she's usually right."

Betty smiles and agrees. "I am usually right," she says. ■

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FAITH

PANORA CHURCHES ANNOUNCE HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Special to Lake Panorama Times

Holy Week weeknight services will be held March 25-29 at Panora churches with a light meal served at 6:30 p.m. and services beginning at 7 p.m. Dates and locations are as follows:

Monday, March 25: St. Cecilia Catholic Church, 220 N. First St., Panora

Tuesday, March 26: Calvary Chapel of

the Raccoon River Valley, 604 E. Main St., Panora

Wednesday, March 27: Panora United Methodist Church, 119 E. Main St., Panora

Thursday, March 28: First Christian Church (with the help of the Panora Church of the Brethren), 102 E. Church St., Panora

Friday, March 29: Faith Bible Church (no meal), 2096 Highway 4, Panora ■

NOTICE

LPA ROAD EMBARGO ENDS

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

The Lake Panorama Association road embargo lasted just two weeks this year. The five-ton vehicle weight limit began Monday, Feb. 12, and ended at 7 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 26. Past road embargoes have occurred anytime between early February and early April. Once set, the embargo is in place until conditions stabilize and road surfaces can bear significant loads without damage.

Each spring, warm temperatures and thawing conditions weaken the roadbed under the Lake Panorama Association's seal coated roads, which means heavy loads can cause severe road damage.

That's the reason for the annual spring road embargo, which prohibits loaded vehicles that weigh more than five tons on most LPA roads during the spring thaw, while the frost is coming out of the ground and the roadbed is soft.

Dry weather this year allowed LPA to implement the embargo earlier than often is the case and end the embargo sooner than usual.

In 2023, it cost more than \$30,000 to seal coat one mile of LPA roads, and early indicators are the cost this year may be significantly higher. That's why this annual embargo is vital to help avoid road damage. The LPA appreciates everyone's cooperation. ■

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EVENT

EASTER BRUNCH AT THE LINKS MARCH 31

BY SUSAN THOMPSON
Lake Panorama Times

A special brunch will be served Easter Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at The Links at Lake Panorama National.

Brunch offerings include a variety of breakfast items, including a made-to-order egg station, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, Canadian bacon, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, assorted fresh fruit and an array of pastries. Entrée offerings feature fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, jalapeno creamed corn, seasonal vegetables, and a carving station showcasing prime rib, pork tenderloin and ham. For the kids, there will be mac and cheese, chicken tenders and fries.

Bottomless mimosas and Bloody Marys will be available at an additional cost.

Brunch-only tickets are priced at \$41. Kids ages 6-12 are \$15, and those 5 and younger are free. All tickets include tax and gratuity. To purchase tickets online, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/easter-brunch-at-the-links-tickets-806726369287?aff=ehometext>. More event details can be found on this Eventbrite page in the Frequently Asked Questions section.

Tickets also can be requested by calling or stopping by The Links during open hours, which currently are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 4-10 p.m. Questions can be emailed to lkuhn@lakepanorama.org. ■

FAITH

HOLY WEEK SERVICES ANNOUNCED FOR GUTHRIE CENTER CHURCHES

Special to Lake Panorama Times

The Guthrie Center Association of Churches announces the worship schedule for Holy Week Services, which will be at 7 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

Monday, March 25: First Presbyterian Church, 701 State St. Guthrie Center

Tuesday, March 26: St. Mary's Catho-

lic Church, 603 Main St. Guthrie Center
Wednesday, March 27: Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1305 North St., Guthrie Center

Thursday, March 28: United Methodist Church, 405 Prairie St, Guthrie Center

Friday, March 29: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 713 N. 12th St., Guthrie Center. ■



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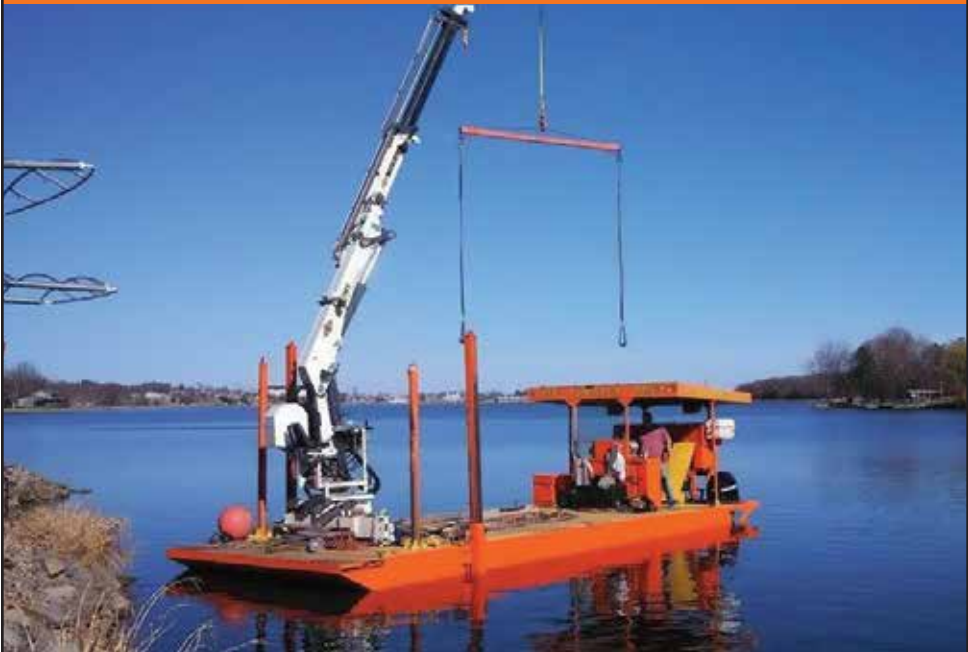


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BUSINESS NEWS

ANTHOFER HIRED AT LAKESIDE VILLAGE

BY RICH WICKS
Lake Panorama Times

Sheri Anthofer was hired as the community relations coordinator at Lakeside Village in Panora. She shared information on her experience, as well as how she views her role at Lake Village.

"I have a very diverse background," said Anthofer, "I've done hotel management, office administration, I was the director of The Gardens Assisted Living facility in Jefferson. I've done human resources up at Lake Okoboji for the park marina. I worked in the physical rehab department as their admin person for 15 years at Greene County Medical Center. I've also done event management. So, every job for me has really been a stepping stone, but the one thing that all of those jobs revolve around is

people."

Lakeside Village offers three basic types of care: independent living, assisted living and memory care.

In Anthofer's free time, she enjoys swimming, cycling and travel. She shared information about her family as well.

"My husband farms on the side, and he's an electrician for Baker Electric out of Des Moines," said Anthofer. "I've been married for 29 years and have three grown children."

"I am really the sales and marketing coordinator," said Anthofer. "My job is to fill those rooms, basically, making people aware of what we do out here."



Sheri Anthofer

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FISH FRY HELD AT ST. CECILIA'S

BY SHANE GOODMAN

Lake Panorama Times

The Panora St. Cecilia Knights of Columbus Council No. 11242 held a fish dinner on March 1 from 5-7

p.m. in the basement of St. Cecilia Catholic Church at 220 N. First St. in Panora. Attendees enjoyed hand-breaded fish, baked potato or tater tots, coleslaw, lemonade, tea, water and dessert. ■

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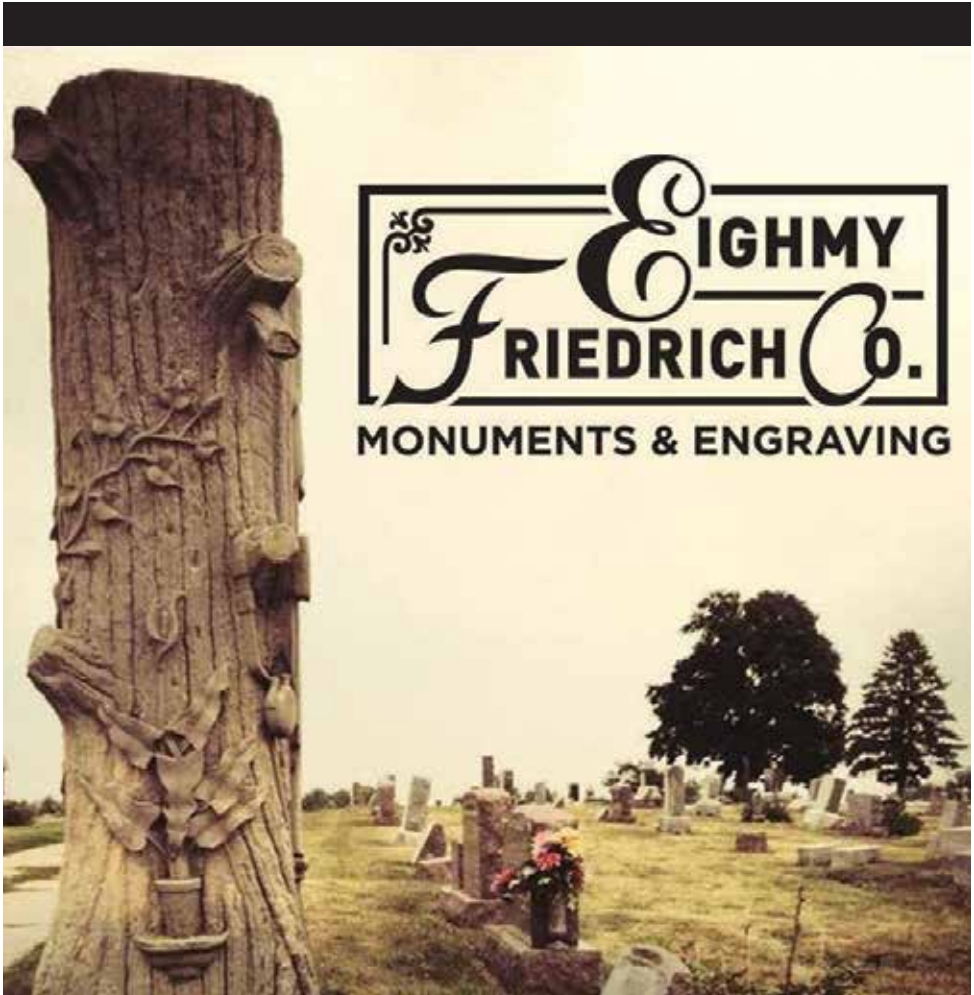
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LAKE DOGS

BY CHERYL TEMPLE | *Lake Panorama Times*

Names and

ages: Gonzo, 4,
and Fozzie Bear,
6

Breed: Labra-
doodles

Owners: John
and Shelly Booth

The Booths
have a large lot
at the lake where
Gonzo and
Fozzie Bear en-
joy running up
and down the
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both love rid-
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COVE CATS

BY CHERYL TEMPLE | Lake Panorama Times



Names and ages: Sedona, 6, and Little Bit, 5
Breed: Torties
Owners: Deb and Rich Grunsted

Sedona is a long-haired kitty that loves to hunt critters at the lake and enjoys cuddling in her bed while resting in the sun. Little Bit is full of personality and sometimes thinks she's a dog. All the Grunsteds do is whistle, and she suddenly appears. ■



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EVENT

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Farmers State Bank held “an open house for everyone,” serving Dad’s Belgian Waffles at the Yale Community Club on March 2. Pictured are Dave Deardorff, Scott Stanley, Jordan Carstens and Cole Carstens.

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RECIPE

CHICKEN AND VEGETABLE KABOBS ARE AN EASY SUMMER MEAL

BY JOLENE GOODMAN
Lake Panorama Times

I like to cook, but it does take time. And as the weather starts warming up, I am drawn to the outdoors, working on yard projects, taking the dog for walks, hitting the golf course, practicing a new hobby of disc golf, hopefully jumping on my bike more and, soon, gliding across the water in a boat. As such, I spend less time in the kitchen. During April and May, I prepare meals for the upcoming summer months. Organizing my freezer full of marinated meats, chopped vegetables, baked muffins, mixed cookie dough and egg dishes makes summer meals a breeze. I make three to four batches each time and en-

joy these meals once a month, having plenty if others drop by. This month's recipe is a hit with my family and guests. Some even comment that kabobs are fancy. The fact is, when the prep work is done in advance, this summer meal is easy. Get planning now so you have more time to enjoy doing the things you love this summer. ■

Jolene Goodman is the advertising director for Lake Panorama Times and vice president of Big Green Umbrella Media.



Jolene Goodman

CHICKEN AND VEGETABLE KABOBS

12 servings

- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 1/3 cup white wine (or honey if you want sweet)
- 2/3 cup soy sauce
- ½ tsp pepper
- 2 tsp minced garlic
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast cut into 1 inch cubes
- 2 yellow or red onions cut in 2 inch pieces
- 2 green peppers cut in 2 inch pieces
- 1 carton of mushrooms, use whole
- Skewers (if using wooden, soak in water for 10 minutes prior to skewering ingredients)
- Ziploc freezer bags

Directions

In medium bowl, mix together first 5 ingredients. Place chicken in one bag and vegetables in another

bag. If cooking the same day, reserve ¼ marinade for basting. Otherwise, add half marinade to chicken and the other half to the veggies. Turn the bags several times to make sure all pieces are coated. If you are cooking this today, store bags in the fridge for 4-6 hours, turning the bags several times during that time. If you are not, label the bags with contents and date, then throw in the freezer for future use. When ready, preheat grill to medium heat. As the grill is heating up, assemble the kabobs. For a great, colorful presentation, thread skewers alternating chicken and vegetables. Lightly oil the grill. Place kabobs on and cook 6-8 minutes per side. Toward the end of cooking, use the ¼ cup of reserved marinade to baste the kabobs. Enjoy! ■



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A: We welcome and encourage your photos, especially of summertime boating and skiing. Please include names of the people in the photos. You can email them to shane@dmciview.com.

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Q: CAN THE LPA IMPOUND BOATS OF MEMBERS?

A: The short answer is yes, according to section 5.1(f) of the LPA Rules and Regulations. The longer answer is that the LPA maintains the right to impound vessels under any one of the following circumstances:

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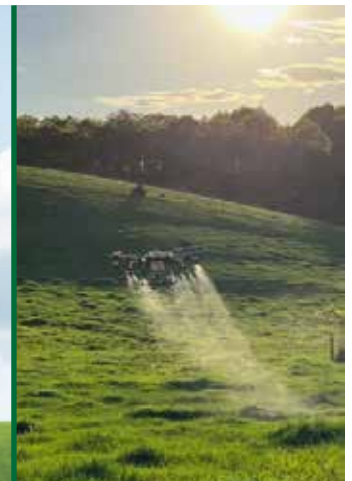


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WHERE IS IT?



The answer to last month's photo is a retro bicycle and lawn statues at the home of Jeff and Sheila Houston at 6321 Panorama Drive. Paula Hansen was the first person to respond correctly. Have a guess on where the object in this month's photo is? Have one to submit for future issues? Send to shane@dmcityview.com. ■

LAST MONTH'S PHOTO



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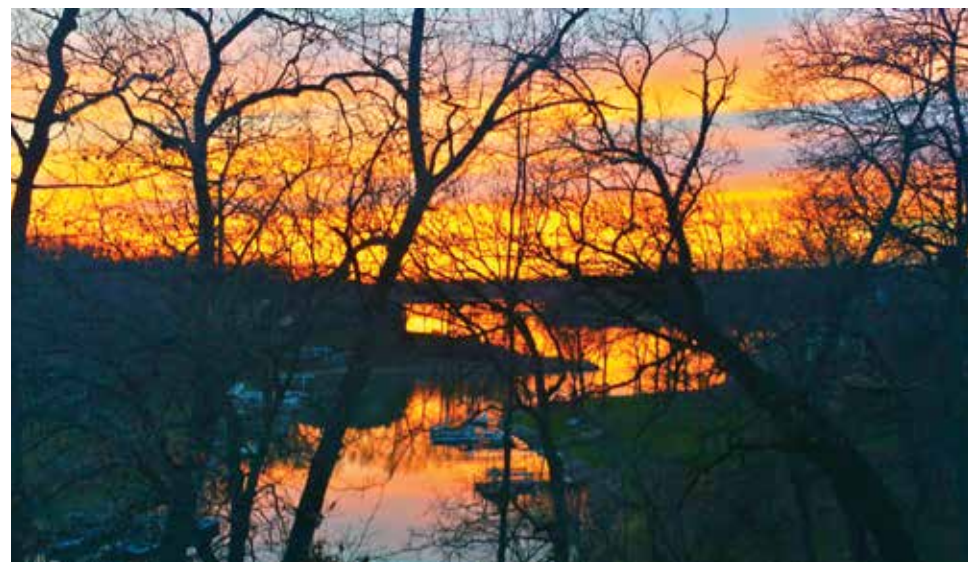
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TRISH HART'S NATURE PHOTOS

LAKE PANORAMA SUNRISES AND SUNSETS



BY SUSAN THOMPSON

Lake Panorama Times

There is something truly special about sunrises and sunsets over water. For those who live at Lake Panorama, each day brings a sunrise and a sunset that often creates a beautiful picture worth enjoying, if we pay attention.

Photographer Trish Hart shares a home with her husband, Scott, in Andrew's Cove at Lake Panorama. She says she's taken hundreds of photos of Lake Panorama sunrises and sunsets. This month she shares two of her favorites.

This sunrise photo was taken last spring in Andrew's Cove from the Hart's

home, as sunrise painted both the sky and the water several shades of orange.

The sunset photo also is from last spring, but later in the season, as leaves popped out on shrubs and trees. Hart took this photo from the north end of the Narrows.

Author Jo Walton had this to say about sunrises and sunsets: "There's a sunrise and a sunset every single day, and they're absolutely free. Don't miss so many of them." Sounds like good advice.

Hart offers custom prints of her photos on canvas, paper, metal and glass. Learn more by visiting Nature's Canvas Photography on Facebook. ■



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Do you need any Sewing, Alterations or Mending done? I have lots of experience. Call Bernice 641-740-1146.

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WANT TO BUY your manufactured or mobile home 1990 and newer CENTURY HOMES of OSKALOOSA 641-672-2344 (mcn)

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Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-434-0020 (mcn)

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DIAGNOSED WITH LUNG CANCER and 65+? You may qualify for a substantial cash award. NO obligation! We've recovered millions. Let us help!! Call 24/7, 1-866-533-1701. (mcn)
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Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 844-716-2411. (mcn)
Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-877-916-2093. (mcn)
STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! A recent study shows that a majority of people struggle to pay for health coverage. Let us show you how much you can save. Call Now for a no-obligation quote: 1-888-772-8454. You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider. (mcn)
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Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Our home warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call: 1-877-743-7971 (mcn)
AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-770-8025. Have zip code of property ready when calling! (mcn)
WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-750-5574. Have zip code of service location ready when you call! (mcn)

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LONG DISTANCE MOVING: Call today for a FREE QUOTE from America's Most Trusted Interstate Movers. Let us take the stress out of moving! Speak to a Relocation Specialist, call 877-327-0795. (mcn)
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Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-577-1268. (mcn)
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Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're cutting installation costs in half and offering a FREE safety upgrade! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 3/31/24 Call 1-855-963-1988. (mcn)
These Might be the Bible Answers you've been Looking for !!! www.MusingsAboutGod.com. Logical, Clear, Respectful.....ahhhh..... but a little Different ... (mcn)

WANT TO BUY

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Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 866-470-1643. (mcn)

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Dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400+ procedures. Real dental insurance - not just a discount plan. Get your free Information Kit with details! 1-855-526-1060 [#6258 \(ACP\)](http://www.dental50plus.com/ads)
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DIRECTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB Games! Choice Package \$89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/Choice Package or higher.) No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-866-859-0405 (ACP)
Diagnosed with lung cancer & 65+? You may qualify for a substantial cash award. No obligation! We've recovered millions. Let us help! Call 24/7 1-877-707-5707 (ACP)
Replace your roof w/the best looking & longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off install + Additional 10% off install (military, health & 1st responders.) 1-833-370-1234 (ACP)
Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're cutting installation costs in half and offering a FREE safety upgrade! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 3/31/24 Call 1-844-501-3208 (ACP)
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Home Break-ins take less than 60 seconds. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets now for as little as 70¢ a day! Call 855-401-1151 (ACP) ■

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Lake Panorama Sales Report				
Homes & Condos sold at Lake Panorama 2022-2023				
PROPERTY TYPE	2022 # SOLD	2022 AVERAGE PRICE	2023 # SOLD	2023 AVERAGE PRICE
WATERFRONT HOMES	29	\$1,010,337	28	\$916,940
WATERFRONT CONDOS	7	\$492,714	7	\$567,143
OFF-SHORE HOMES	14	\$440,928	15	\$435,009
OFF-SHORE CONDOS	5	\$207,800	3	\$350,167

Statistics according to Des Moines Area Association of Realtors -MLS & Guthrie County Assessor



Angie Worth
Broker Associate/Owner

Leslie Anderson
Realtor/Office Admin

Laura Kemble
Broker/Owner

Dave Wagler
Broker Associate

218 W. Main Street, Panora, IA 50216
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